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V

**NOTES ON THE BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF
SISKIYOU COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

BY

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The fact that but little has been written concerning the birds of Siskiyou County, California, at least for the breeding season, led to a decision to make that county the center of the field work of the Department of Ornithology for the spring of 1920.

The field party consisted of F. C. Holman, F. G. Gilchrist, and the writer, and remained in the field from May 10 to June 16.

While it might have been better to have reached this field somewhat earlier than May 10 for the purpose of noting migrants on their way to regions further north, this date was about right for the arrivals of those that breed in the region visited. Many of these latter were just coming in and we had the satisfaction of seeing them settling down and pairing off.

Arriving at Weed on the afternoon of May 11, the party passed the rest of the day in getting located and prospecting about for promising spots to work over. This town is a great lumbering center, and practically all the neighboring forests have been destroyed, the destruction being completed in many places by forest fires which have evidently often swept over

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great areas, destroying all young forest growth in their paths. The timbered country for the most part being extremely rocky and covered by lava and other volcanic ejecta, with none too plenteous a rainfall, the growth of a new forest is a slow process. Even the ceanothus brush has difficulty in many places in getting started, and the major part of the deforested area is a sad and disheartening sight.

In much of this there is but little bird life. The waters from the melting snows on Mt. Shasta sink through the porous rock and springs are scarce. Fortunately, some of these waters are checked by impervious strata and, collecting beneath the surface, produce some good live streams, which are utilized to water the meadows that have been formed in low spots, where Wilson's Snipe and the Nevada Red-winged Blackbird take advantage of the moisture and the long green grasses in which to hide their nests.

We were fortunate in finding a small valley about half a mile southeast of Weed, apparently coming straight down from Mt. Shasta, that had been spared by fire and still had some fair-sized forest trees in it, opening out into a meadow with a small stream running through.

Here we found birds quite plentiful. The weather was cold and windy, but the birds were commencing to breed. While the fox sparrows, in this case the Yosemite Fox Sparrow, are not found nesting below 4500 or 5000 feet even as far north as Plumas County (California), here they were numerous in a patch of heavy brush at not over 3600 feet altitude, in company with the Green-tailed Towhee. The fox sparrow breeding on Mt. Shasta has been previously recorded as the Thick-billed Fox Sparrow. C. H. Townsend, in his "Field Notes on the Mammals, Birds and Reptiles of Northern California" (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., X, 1887, p. 220), states that the Thick-billed Sparrow was "Common about Mount Shasta in summer, where it frequented the chaparral tracts and the bushes scattered through the pine country." C. Hart Merriam, in North American Fauna No. 16, 1899, p. 126, also mentions this form as found on Shasta.

Several specimens were taken by us near Weed and a number were evidently nesting or preparing to nest in some very

thick brush near by, the cheery song of the males being a pleasant feature of the morning chorus. There is every reason to believe that the form we found breeding at the base of the mountain, the Yosemite Fox Sparrow, separated and described in 1918, is the one occupying the whole mountain, and is the same form that inhabits the higher altitudes along the Sierra in Plumas County and the Tahoe region, although it was originally recorded from the latter region also as the Thick-billed Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca megarhyncha*).

Weed is situated at the westerly base of Mt. Shasta, a beautiful view of which, seemingly of an even slope from the brush-covered bottom to its glistening summit of snow and ice, is obtained—a view ever changing in character and ever new. The town itself is bordered by a meadow on the eastern side and more or less hemmed in by partly forested hills in other directions, with a small stream, tributary to Little Shasta River, which flows through Shasta Valley into the Klamath, running through it.

The character of the immediate vicinity is that of the Transition Zone. In addition to many of the more commonly known species found in this zone, we found here the Green-tailed Towhee and Yosemite Fox Sparrow, above mentioned; the Calliope Hummingbird, the Calaveras Warbler, and the Mountain Chickadee. Of these five species, three were breeding where we found them at not over 3500 feet elevation, while the Calliope Hummingbird and the Calaveras Warbler were nesting either here or not far away, to judge from their actions. Unfortunately, no females were secured to confirm this, but we later found these two species nesting at about the same elevation as Weed, and under practically similar conditions. ,

A Swainson's Thrush was taken here on May 14, but was probably a migrant, as it is recorded as a summer visitant in Modoc County, northeast of the Shasta region.

From the meadow in the evening came the call of Wilson's Snipe, and the Nevada Red-wing was there waiting for the meadow grass to grow high enough to make good nesting sites.

Merriam (*op. cit.*) makes no mention of the California Purple Finch in the Shasta region, while Townsend (*op. cit.*) says that it was observed on a few occasions only; he does

not record it from northern California north of Shasta County. Miss Kellogg in "Mammals and Birds of Northern California" (University of California Publications in Zoology, Vol. 12, 1916), mentions it as having been taken only twice in the summer time by the Alexander expedition. On the other hand, we found it more or less common at nearly every station where we collected, at some places associated with Cassin's Finch.

The song sparrow of this region, so far as we could make out, is the Modoc Song Sparrow. This race appears to be a comparatively recent one, and not so well established as many others. This is shown in the wide variation of its markings, some specimens being practically without black centers to the dorsal feathers, while others have this black well developed. This species was common about Weed but did not appear to be especially numerous.

We found the Wright's Flycatcher quite common where the firs and yellow pines were of fair size and more scattered. They appeared to have just come into the region. No other Empidonax was recorded at Weed.

The Sacramento Towhee was fairly common in the vicinity of Weed, but the Northern Brown Towhee was extremely rare. While I was fairly sure of having caught a glimpse of one at Weed, the identification was not sufficiently positive to record it. However, as it is found only a few miles away and at but little lower elevation, the chances are that my guess was correct.

For some reason the Western Warbling Vireo seems to have been scarce during the visits of the Townsend and Merriam field parties, but we found it common enough this season, having met with it at each of our stations, except one in the heart of the coniferous forest. Miss Kellogg records it from three stations only.

While we found Audubon's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Macgillivray's Warbler, and the Golden Pileolated Warbler more or less common in suitable places in this vicinity, we had no direct evidence of their nesting here, yet there was good reason to suppose that they would do so, or at least not far away.

The region immediately around Weed, at the altitude of 3000 to 3500 feet, has approximately the same forms of bird

life as are found in Plumas County, California, or at other similar portions of the Western slope of the Sierra Nevada at 4000 to 5000 feet, except, perhaps, that the Hermit Warbler and the White-headed Woodpecker are not found breeding at the low level of Weed, though the latter comes down in the fall. The Long-tailed Jay was noted at Weed, but no specimen was secured. It seemed to be scarce and wary in this locality. In fact, it was noted at but one other station in this county, that is, at Yreka.

Miss Kellogg does not mention the Pygmy Nuthatch as noted at any station, and Townsend did not find it in the Shasta region, while Merriam speaks of it as having been noted at Edgewood and Sisson only, and then rather late in the season. As may be seen in the appended table, we found it everywhere except at Yreka, where there was no appropriate cover for it.

Dr. Will S. Tebbe of the Weed hospital, gave us information concerning likely places to visit, with the reasons therefor, as well as for advice and aid in regard to reaching them. I take this opportunity to thank him in the name of the California Academy of Sciences as well as in a personal way, for the assistance so kindly and enthusiastically given, and for introductions to others who also were of much assistance to us. Dr. Tebbe's knowledge of Siskiyou County is very extended, having been acquired by long residence and an active professional life in a thinly settled country as well as by numerous hunting and fishing expeditions, so that his suggestions concerning various localities that might prove of interest in our work were especially valuable. Following one of these suggestions, after a few days combing of Weed and its immediate neighborhood, we moved, on May 16, to Stewart's Springs, a well-known summer camping resort about eight miles southwest of Weed, Dr. Tebbe taking us there in his own car and Mr. Lloyd assisting with our impedimenta. This place is owned by Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Lloyd of Weed, who most kindly placed the cabin there, furnished with household utensils, at our disposal. This place is on Park's Creek, which here flows through a steep and rocky ravine at an elevation of about 4300 feet, and is in the forest proper where very little lumbering has been done. On the east side of the stream the forest is so thick

overhead that there is but little shrub or small plant growth on the very rocky and poor soil of this part of the country, while on the west side the steep hill sides have more or less openings with some brush, mostly scattering, on them. Along the stream and in moist places the birch trees were just beginning to bud out. The forest at the springs is composed mostly of yellow pine, Douglas fir, and incense cedar, but sugar pine growth commences a short distance higher up. Around the campground birds were extremely scarce, especially during the first day or two of our stay. The first bird that attracted attention was a Sierra Creeper, carrying material to a nest which was a few yards away from the cabin door, and situated behind a piece of loose bark on an incense cedar, about four feet from the ground.

The birds at this station were the general run of Sierran species from like altitudes, and, being enumerated in the table at the end of this paper, need not be listed here. Certain of our observations, however, may prove of interest.

One of the main objects of the field work in Siskiyou County was the investigation of the local fox sparrow (*Passerella*) situation, and one of the objects in making Stewart's Springs an observation station was that of visiting the ranges above in search of appropriate brush for this genus and to ascertain if it were breeding there. With this idea in view Messrs. Holman and Gilchrist were sent upon this errand on May 17. On that day they did not reach any great elevation, but returned with quite a list of birds noted, yet no fox sparrows, as they had not met with the sort of brush this genus inhabits in the nesting season. Mr. Gilchrist continued the search alone next day. He started early and reached a point close to the rapidly retreating snow line, securing one fox sparrow and hearing two or three more in a clump of dwarfed yew trees. The specimen taken is one of the small-billed, brown-backed races which I have identified as the Sooty Fox Sparrow. While this capture raised our hopes of finding something worth while in this line, surprising as it was to find one of the more northern forms here at so late a date (May 18), such hopes were misplaced. Further examination of that locality and of others near it resulted in absolute failure to discover fox sparrows of any form what-

ever, and the conclusion was reluctantly reached that those above noted were but late migrants on their way north. One specimen of Clark's Nutcracker was taken high up on the range.

We had been told of orioles which were good singers that were to be found there, but, as we surmised, the "orioles" proved to be Western Tanagers, which seemed to have but recently arrived. Their curious rolling chirp was heard constantly as they were apparently looking for good nesting sites. A few of these gave us the benefit of their rather attractive song, but singing was not general on the part of this species.

One of the interesting features of our stay here was the passing through to higher altitudes of the Townsend Solitaire. This flight, if it might be called such, commenced a day or two after our arrival and for the rest of the week there was hardly a moment when there were not a pair or two of these birds in sight from the cabin door, flying leisurely from tree to tree, alighting on the ground as they often did, or best of all with the male(?) perched on some dead twig and pouring out his love song—indeed a beautiful one, not loud but particularly soft, liquid, and melodious. In the solitudes of the forest it is especially pleasant to hear.

We found here the Hammond's Flycatcher quite common though not numerous. Several pair might be seen in a morning's walk, but they appeared to be much scarcer than the indications of insect life seemed to warrant. One pair was building a nest about a quarter of a mile above our camp, but unfortunately it was not finished before the end of our stay.

One Wright's Flycatcher was taken near this camp, but in a more open locality than that occupied by the Hammond's. As the Transition Zone merged quite rapidly into the Canadian at Stewart's Springs, on account of the steepness of the mountain sides, some of the birds recorded from this station might be from either zone. Our camp was in Transition, but sugar pine and other indications of the Canadian were not far away.

Our station on Park's Creek was probably within ten miles of the station of Misses Alexander and Kellogg at the head of Bear Creek, August 5-17, 1911, but on the northerly side of the range, i. e., on the Shasta Valley side, while their camp was on the southerly or Scott Valley side.

At Stewart's Springs we found quite a number of rodents, but did not succeed in securing as many species as we had hoped. Around the cabin were the Western Bushy-tailed Wood Rat, *Neotoma cinereus occidentalis*, apparently living in friendly community with the Sierra Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel, *Callospermophilus chrysodeirus chrysodeirus*, as we caught these two animals in the same spots, on one occasion at the mouth of a hole among the rocks, and on another in a trap kept set under the edge of a bath-house by the stream. Gambel's White-footed Mouse, *Peromyscus maniculatus gambeli* was the more numerous of the two species of the genus *Peromyscus* found here, the other being Gilbert's White-footed Mouse, *Peromyscus truei gilberti*. The Klamath Chipmunk, *Eutamias amoenus amoenus*, and Allen's Chipmunk, *Eutamias senex*, were both well represented here. The Sierra Chickaree, *Sciurus douglasi albolimbatus* was occasionally met with.

Just below the cabin was a dark, damp spot on the bank of the stream, that was full of holes among tree roots and appeared to be an ideal place for shrews, but persistent trapping there brought no results and no shrews were obtained anywhere.

As the owners of these springs wished to put the place in order for summer occupation, we returned to Weed, on May 23, to repack and make a new start.

We had been given to understand that we would find accommodation at "Big Springs" (Mayten), but upon reaching that place on Monday, May 24, we found this to be an error, and having no camping outfit with us we made a circuit around Shasta Valley to look for a hospitable location.

The object in going to this locality was to examine the lava and juniper country in the vicinity, which is here covered also with sage brush, on the one side and the meadows around the Big Springs laguna on the other, as this seemed to be an inviting combination for the Upper Sonoran Zone.

Its appearance, however, probably belies it, for the Alexander Expedition in 1911 remained there only two days, apparently not deeming the prospect sufficiently alluring for further effort. The road from Weed to Big Springs passes alongside or through the lava, sage and juniper for some miles, and, as

we motored slowly along, especial watch was kept for any birds that might possibly be peculiar to such an association, but the few species we noted were the same as those in the adjacent pine regions.

The season was an intensely dry one and the prospects poor. As we traveled through the very open country, mostly pasture lands, stony surfaced hillsides, or alkali bottoms, we were surprised at the total absence of such birds as one would expect to find in such situations. Although we passed through apparently ideal places for horned larks (*Otocoris*), none was seen. An occasional Arkansas Kingbird and a Western Meadowlark were practically all the birds we saw.

In our circuit around this part of Shasta Valley, we failed to find any place that looked promising and we finally went to the small town of Gazelle where several field parties have done some collecting, but it looked too uninviting in such a dry season to be worth trying, there being little except open and more or less alkali land in its immediate vicinity. We finally went to Edgewood, a small town five miles northwest of Weed, at an altitude of 2900 feet. This place is on the edge of Upper Sonoran, changing quickly into Transition toward the southeast as the country rapidly rises.

Edgewood is surrounded by meadows irrigated from the snow-fed streams of Shasta, and here, as in the meadows about Weed, the Nevada Red-wing was just preparing to nest, several females being noticed carrying nesting material, while Wilson's Snipe was also taking advantage of such a favorable spot.

The birds about Edgewood were mostly the ordinary species found in Transition in this part of California, but it was here that we came across the only specimen that we noted of the California Cuckoo, which all three of us saw one evening fly across the railroad track in the town, of the Northern Brown Towhee, which I saw near the village one evening but did not secure, and of the San Joaquin Wren, which Gilchrist found nesting in a small, dead stump not far from the railroad track, and which, like many of the birds found near the railroad here and at Weed, was woefully smudged with oil soot. Shasta River runs through the valley just below Edgewood and in the willows on its banks we found Traill's Flycatcher. A Western

Flycatcher, seen here, was the only one of this species noted by us in Siskiyou County. The most interesting discovery at Edgewood was the presence of a small flock, or perhaps several small bands, of Cedar Waxwings in the town. These were first seen on May 25, feeding on the seeds or buds of some maple trees in a little grove in the middle of the village. We noticed some birds of this species every day we were there but saw no evidence of nesting. On May 26 a flock of 18 individuals was seen on the edge of the village, flying north, but whether there was only one flock in the locality moving about or whether succeeding flocks rested and fed there during migration, we did not succeed in determining. Most certainly some roosted there over night, as we saw them settling down in the trees toward dusk.

The meadows were searched for signs of *Microtus*, but none was found and our traps attracted neither this genus nor mice. Traps set along fences and in the fields brought no returns whatever. Gophers, however, were numerous in one handy corner, and several Red Bluff(?) Pocket Gophers, *Thomomys leucodon navus* (?), were taken here.

As there was not enough of interest at Edgewood to detain us long, we moved, on May 28, to Bray, a sawmill village in the lava country, about 20 miles northeast of Mt. Shasta, with an elevation of 4650 feet. Not finding accommodation in the town, we camped on the edge of an irrigated meadow, about a mile away in the valley of Butte Creek. For a long distance around Bray the standing timber of any value has been destroyed, and, except for a few large pines in the town, trees of any size are scarce. Even small timber is much scattered on account of the poorness of the rocky soil. Here a low, thin sage brush is a predominant characteristic of the lava country, the bushes for the most part too stunted and scraggly to afford much shelter for birds. Very little bird life could be found in this sage brush, but occasional spots among the remnants of timber or in the willows, aspens, and cottonwoods along the stream harbored a fair number for such a region. At Bray we discovered the Mountain Bluebird for the first and only time on this trip, nesting in old dead tree stubs. The usual Sierran forms for corresponding altitudes were for the most part pres-

ent, or apparently were coming in during our week's stay. Among the late comers were the Brewer's Sparrow and Gray Flycatcher, the former in the sage brush and the latter in the willows along the stream.

Gilchrist came across an Osprey's nest on top of a tall pine stub, with the old birds in attendance, the secret of their presence here being the number of fish in Lake Orr, a small body of water a short distance west of Bray, and easily available to them.

Some ducks and other waterfowl breed about this lake and the Yellow-headed Blackbird nests here abundantly. The sage brush near the lake is higher than the major part of it elsewhere in the neighborhood and here was the only place where we found the Western Vesper Sparrow. Holman ascended Mt. Orr, close by and probably about a thousand feet higher than the town, and there found the Yosemite Fox Sparrow breeding, the identification being from specimens he brought in, this extending slightly the known range of this species.

A female Cedar Waxwing was seen on June 2, calling from the top of a small willow. This was taken and showed no sign of breeding. On June 3, Gilchrist came across a couple of California Evening Grosbeaks, one of which was secured. This proved to be a female with the ovary just commencing to swell, the largest ovum being about 1.4 mm. in diameter.

Here also, on June 2, we heard our first Pacific Nighthawks for the region, as they carried on their courting antics high above our heads. None came low, contrary to some of my previous experiences, when they had descended close enough for us to secure specimens. The Gairdner's Woodpeckers here seemed to have rather more left of their tails than some we had been taking. One of these taken at Weed had nearly half of the tail feathers worn away, leaving a sort of double crescent effect, the shaft of the main rectrices being only 32 mm. long, as measured from the end of the pygostyle, instead of something over 50 mm. I have placed this woodpecker from the Shasta Valley region with *gairdneri*, but it leans very strongly toward *turati*, being anything but typical. Near the lake Mr. Holman noted a Magpie, the only one seen, but failed, after a long chase, to secure it. The Poor-will was in evidence here,

its soft call being audible at almost any time from dusk to daylight, but none was seen.

At Bray we were in a well populated colony of the Oregon Ground Squirrel (*Citellus oregonus*). Until we had taken several in traps they were numerous all around our cabin, but soon became very wary. In this region they are called "Picket Pins" or "Bulldogs," the former name arising from their habit of sitting by their holes, or on rocks or stumps, in an extremely erect position and at a distance strongly resembling wooden stakes. After our traps had taken two or three adults on the edge of the meadow, a warning seemed to have been circulated through the colony, for no trap was touched thereafter except by an occasional young one, in spite of change of bait and of smoking the traps to kill the scent of former casualties. This ground squirrel is so numerous in this part of the state as to be a great pest. Occurring here also in association with these animals was the Golden Mantled Ground Squirrel (*Callospermophilus chrysodeirus chrysodeirus*), which greatly resembles a large and handsomely marked chipmunk. The Klamath Chipmunk (*Eutamias amoenus amoenus*) was also found here. Mice, however, were very scarce and but few were obtained. Those taken were of two species, each of which appeared to be of intermediate form and neither of which has as yet been definitely determined. No shrews or meadow mice were taken, although the meadow seemed a fine place for them. Probably the irrigation had something to do with their absence, even though the ground was never absolutely covered with water.

After a week at Bray the party moved to Yreka, the county seat of Siskiyou County, which we reached on the afternoon of June 5. This town is at an altitude of 2620 feet and is in the Upper Sonoran Zone.

As this locality did not look very encouraging, we remained only one day to collect a few Dusky-Horned Larks, and then, on June 7, we moved to a place known as "Forest House Mountain," so called on account of being just west of an old-time tavern and resort called "The Forest House," on the road to Scott Valley. Our camp was at a woodchopper's cabin a few yards off the main road, known as "Robber's Rock Camp," on account of a series of stage robberies having taken place

from a large rock just above it. The altitude here is nearly 4000 feet.

The cabin was beside what was usually a large spring, ordinarily making swampy ground of the hillside, but which was sadly reduced in size in this dry year. Through the day, from time to time, some birds came here to obtain water, yet the total number was comparatively small, and the species the usual Sierran forms, as may be gathered from the appended table of records. The records for this station cover a good deal of the vicinity as far as altitude is concerned, for the change from Upper Sonoran to Transition took place only a short distance below our camp, and the Transition ran up rapidly above us so as almost to develop into the Canadian stage of zonal association, the elevation just above our camp reaching over 5000 feet.

Bird life was extremely scarce over much of this higher territory and search along the higher range brought but little reward. This may have been partly due to lack of water, yet many well watered areas in Siskiyou County often made but little better showing. Our camp here was on the edge of a small opening in the pine forest which extended over the range. A quarter of a mile above us was a gap through which passed the road to Fort Jones, in Scott Valley, while below the forest merged into more or less brushy or chapparal country, with some sage interspersed.

We had come here in the hope of finding fox sparrows, but were disappointed in this. While the brush in places was of the right sort to suit fox sparrows, it was everywhere too low and scattering, not affording the heavy cover which these birds prefer, except at too low an altitude for this genus.

Just above our cabin one morning I had the pleasure of finding a brood of young Mountain Quail. The little fellows swarmed about my feet when I happened to be standing still for a few moments. The mother remained immovable not over six feet from me, her confidence assured by a partial screen of scraggly brush. She gathered her brood about her by uttering a succession of almost (to me) imperceptible, but very musical little clucks, to which the youngsters paid instant and obedient attention. Much as specimens were needed, it was far

too fascinating a scene for me to disturb. Miss Kellogg records this subspecies from Bear Creek, in the Mt. Eddy region not many miles to the southeast, her identification being supported by Dr. Joseph Grinnell, who states, however, that the form taken there is an intermediate one, hence it is reasonable to suppose that those we saw or heard in this region should be placed in this category. Unfortunately we had no other opportunity to obtain specimens.

This was the only station at which we noted the California Pygmy Owl. A couple were heard by all three of the party on the morning of June 9, but the sounds appeared to come from a long distance, apparently across the cañon, and no specimen was secured. Here also we heard the Poor-will, but did not succeed in calling one within range of vision.

In a well-watered ravine we found the Sierra Hermit Thrush to be quite numerous and several individuals were secured. When "squeaked" to, these thrushes would come almost within arm's reach of a person, their curiosity to discover the source of the strange sounds being so easily aroused, according to Holman and Gilchrist who had the good fortune to find this favored spot.

The Dusky-footed Wood Rat (*Neotoma fuscipes fuscipes*) was very common here, its nests being widely distributed over the hillside where the cabin stood, and numerous crevices of rocks also served it for abiding places, these being usually marked by the presence of a few dead twigs strewn near the entrance or sticking out of the holes as if this species could not get away from the idea of *stick* construction for its habitations.

Mice (*Peromyscus*) were fairly numerous here, but we did not find the Kangaroo Rats we had been hoping to find from the accounts given by natives, although there is no doubt as to their presence in some localities within a few miles, as people told us of having seen them jumping across roads in front of their automobiles when traveling by night. Upon our first arrival at Forest House Mountain we found chipmunks very scarce, only one or two being seen, but on June 10 we discovered quantities of the Klamath Chipmunk just below our cabin from the level of the camp to some distance down hill, they being mostly near the little rivulet that flowed from our spring. Whether

they had suddenly appeared, as it seemed, or whether, for some reason, we merely had not come across them before, I do not know, but they certainly were plentiful for the next two or three days. The weather had been cloudy and threatening on the day of our coming and perhaps it was the later sunshine that brought them out of their holes, but the situation had all the appearance of a sudden immigration. Porcupines, probably the Yellow-haired (*Ercthizon epixanthum epixanthum*), were quite common in this neighborhood, and it was no rare sight to see the head of one sticking out of some concrete culvert along the road. As a place of shelter during the daytime at least, these culverts seem to have a special attraction for this animal. For certain reasons no attempt was made on this expedition to secure animals larger than a squirrel, so we did not take advantage of such opportunities as offered for its capture.

From the top of Forest House Mountain the view across Scott Valley to the Salmon Mountains was most enticing, and on June 12 we accepted the offer of a truck freighter to take us over to that range, as he claimed to know just the place where we could get nearly everything we wanted. We found, however, that the road we had intended to follow was in such condition that we could not get as far into the range as we wished, and had to content ourselves with making camp in a deserted building at the "Old Pinery Mine," some four miles southwest of Greenview and at an elevation of only about 3300 feet. We were in the Transition Zone here, on the edge of a national forest of Douglas fir and yellow pine with many oak trees in places. Unfortunately the weather turned against us, and became dark and drizzly. In the immediate vicinity of the old placer mine only common birds were found, the one exception being what I believed to be a Northern Spotted Owl, which was perched on a dead sapling in the wash of the old mine. It was about 100 yards away when seen, but unfortunately there was little cover about, and it was impossible to avoid making a good deal of noise scrambling over the loose stones and coarse gravel in the bed of the old wash. The bird was wary and uneasy, so that a long chase ended in failure to get any nearer, and it finally took to the woods nearby. It was too large for a Saw-whet and I can think of nothing that would fit the case

except a Spotted Owl. With the idea of fox sparrows still dominant, Holman and Gilchrist made a long tour into the higher altitudes in search of birds of this genus, but found none.

We had been actually in or on the borders of the forest region over a month before we saw or heard the Northern Pileolated Woodpecker. On the last day of our stay at this camp, June 15, one was seen and heard at rather close range.

With the exception of the Douglas Ground Squirrel (*Citellus douglasi*), rodents were very scarce at this last station, although old signs were plentiful, especially in the house in which we camped. We had visions of wood rats playing tag over our prostrate forms as we slept on luxurious beds of pine needles upon the floors of the deserted rooms; but, while a mouse or two had the temerity to use some of us for runways, the rats seemed to have vacated the premises in our favor—not only as regards the interior of the house but beneath it as well. Traps were set at favorable looking openings and rat holes around the outside of, and underneath, the house, but not one was touched, although we caught rats in the bushes not fifty yards away.

There were several colonies of the Dusky-footed Wood Rat (*Neotoma fuscipes fuscipes*) in the brush surrounding the clearing occupied by the house, but further away fresh nests were not numerous. This subspecies varies a good deal with locality and climate, and in this place is much lighter in color than specimens from near the type locality, with feet practically white. A few of Allen's Chipmunk (*Eutamias senex*), were found here.

Singularly enough, gophers were very scarce wherever we went, fortunately for the farmers. Near this last camp was a field of perhaps twenty acres, with green crops, including potatoes, growing therein, and surrounded by dry, rocky soil, yet careful search failed to reveal the presence of any gopher sign whatever. Bray and Edgewood were the only stations at which we found signs in any quantity and even there this was restricted to small areas. The alfalfa fields in Shasta Valley at a lower elevation were not, however, examined critically by us, our only view of them being from the train windows, from which no particular damage to the crop was noticed.

While a comparison of the number of species noted by different field parties is usually of interest to the student of the geographic distribution of birds, such comparison loses value when the dates of observation are not similar. Although the records given in the reports of the Merriam and the Alexander expeditions to this region or its vicinity do not quite correspond to those given in this paper, many of those of the first two being either of an earlier or later date than the Academy expedition, for the benefit of future observers it seems worth while to call attention to the differences in these recorded lists.

The Merriam report includes 136 species of birds against our 109. This expedition covered a greater variation of territory than did ours, with larger range of elevation, and remained in the field from the middle of July until the beginning of October. This list includes a number of water birds and raptors that we did not find, as well as some birds of higher altitudes than those we visited. Among those not mentioned by Merriam are the following: Band-tailed Pigeon, American Osprey, Northern Spotted Owl, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Traill's Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, California Purple Finch, Western Vesper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Pallid Wren-tit, Russet-backed Thrush, and the Olive-backed Thrush, a total of 17 species.

Without further information it is useless to comment on these differences further than to say that some of them are due to differences in actual localities visited, even where these were not far separated from each other, and others may be due to difference in date of observations, which may account for the failure of the Merriam party to find the Russet-backed Thrush which we found widely distributed, although the first date of observation of the Merriam expedition, July 15, seems very early for all the individuals of this species to have departed for the south, especially as the Alexander party found it at Grizzly Creek in the Salmon Mountains as late as July 23.

Comparing ours with the Alexander expedition list of 95 species of birds, the same causes for differences can be assumed. The following is our list of species not therein noted: Mallard, California Great Blue Heron, Anthony's Green Heron, Wil-

son's Snipe, Band-tailed Pigeon, Turkey Vulture, Marsh Hawk, Western Red-tailed Hawk, American Osprey, Northern Spotted Owl, California Pygmy Owl, California Cuckoo, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Poor-will, Pacific Nighthawk, Anna's Hummingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, Dusky Horned Lark, Western Crow, Western Vesper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Sooty Fox Sparrow, Western Martin, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Macgillivray's Warbler, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Sierra Hermit Thrush.

A notable fact in this is that no species of swallow is included in the Alexander expedition, whereas we found at least three. Nor did the Sierra Hermit Thrush appear to be breeding in the territory covered by that party, although one would suppose it to be rather widespread in this region, especially so, as in all probability some of the records of the "Dwarf Hermit Thrush" mentioned as noted in several localities by the Merriam parties were of this form.

While the Academy's expedition was principally interested in the bird life of the region visited, and succeeded in adding a number of species to the recorded list of Siskiyou County birds, and in adding in other ways to the comparatively meager knowledge of its avifauna, at the same time special efforts were made to obtain specimens of the rodents at each station. In this the results were disappointing, and, while part of our lack of success may have been due to want of experience on the part of the assistant members, there appeared to be a great thinning out, by some agency, of these small mammals. Probably the three successive dry seasons, with attendant scarcity of accustomed food supply, had something to do with this diminution in numbers.

The expedition was brought to a close June 16.

BIRDS RECORDED IN SISKIYOU COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES EXPEDITION, MAY 10 TO JUNE 15, 1920

| | Weed, 3450 ft. | Stewart's Springs, Park Creek, W. of Edgewood, 4300 ft. | Edgewood, 2935 ft. | Bray, 4650 ft. | Yreka, 2620 ft. | Forest House Mt., 8 miles W. of Yreka, 4000 ft. | Kidder Creek, Salmon Mts., S. W. of Greenview, 3300 ft. |
|---|----------------|---|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) | | | | | | | |
| California Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardea h. hyperonca</i>) | | | | | | | |
| Anthony's Green Heron (<i>Butorides v. anthonyi</i>) | | | | | | | |
| Wilson's Snipe (<i>Callinago delicata</i>) | u | | * | | | | |
| Spotted Sandpiper (<i>Actitis macularia</i>) | u | | | u | | | |
| Killdeer (<i>Oxyechus v. vociferus</i>) | u | | | u | | | |
| Mountain Quail (<i>Oreortyx p. plumifera</i>) | u | | | u | | | |
| Valley Quail (<i>Lophortyx c. vallicola</i>) | u | | | u | | | |
| Sooty (?) Grouse (<i>Dendragapus o. fuliginosus?</i>) | u | | | u | | | |
| Band-tailed Pigeon (<i>Columba f. fasciata</i>) | u | | | u | | | |
| Western Mourning Dove (<i>Zenaidura m. marginella</i>) | u | | | u | | | |
| Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes a. septentrionalis</i>) | * | | | * | | | |
| Marsh Hawk (<i>Circus hudsonius</i>) | * | | | * | | | |
| Western Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo b. calurus</i>) | * | | | * | | | |
| American Sparrow Hawk (<i>Falco s. sparverius</i>) | * | | | * | | | |
| American Osprey (<i>Pandion h. carolinensis</i>) | * | | | * | | | |
| Northern Spotted Owl (<i>Strix o. caurina</i>) | | | | | | | |
| California Pygmy Owl (<i>Glaucidium g. californicum</i>) | | | | | | | |
| California Cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus a. occidentalis</i>) | u | | | u | | | |
| Modoc Woodpecker (<i>Dryobates v. orius</i>) | u | | | u | | | |
| Gairdner's Woodpecker (<i>Dryobates p. gairdneri + turatii</i>) | u | | | u | | | |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker (<i>Dryobates nuttalli</i>) | u | | | u | | | |
| Northern White-headed Woodpecker (<i>Xenopicus a. albobarnatus</i>) | u | | | u | | | |

* = noted
t = taken
n = nesting, or signs of nesting noted

| | Weed, 3450 ft. elevation | Stewart's Springs, Park Creek, W. of Edgewood, 4300 ft. | Edgewood, 2935 ft. | Bray, 4650 ft. | Yreka, 2620 ft. | Forest House Mt., 8 miles W. of Yreka, 4000 ft. | Kiddier Creek, Salmon Mts., S. W. of Greenview, 3300 ft. |
|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|---|--|
| Western Lark Sparrow (<i>Chondestes g. strigatus</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Western Chipping Sparrow (<i>Spizella p. arizonae</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Brewer's Sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Sierra Junco (<i>Junco o. thurberi</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Modoc Song Sparrow (<i>Melospiza m. fisherella</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Yosemite Fox Sparrow (<i>Passerella i. mariposa</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Sooty Fox Sparrow (<i>Passerella i. fuliginosa</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Sacramento Towhee (<i>Pipilo m. fuscicollis</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Northern Brown Towhee (<i>Pipilo c. carole</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Green-tailed Towhee (<i>Oberholseria chlorura</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Pacific Black-headed Grosbeak (<i>Zamelodia m. capitata</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Lazuli Bunting (<i>Passerina amana</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Western Tanager (<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Western Martin (<i>Progne s. hesperia</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Cliff Swallow (<i>Petrochelidon l. lunifrons</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo erythrogaster</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Tree Swallow (<i>Irotoprocne bicolor</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Cedar Waxwing (<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Western Warbling Vireo (<i>Vireosylva g. swainsoni</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Cassin's Vireo (<i>Laniroco s. cassini</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Calaveras Warbler (<i>Vermivora r. gutturalis</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| California Yellow Warbler (<i>Dendroica e. brewsteri</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Audubon's Warbler (<i>Dendroica a. auduboni</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Black-throated Gray Warbler (<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Hermit Warbler (<i>Dendroica occidentalis</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Macgillivray's Warbler (<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

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